

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

MEETING OF THE

PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, January 19, 2006
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
San Bernardino Conference Room
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 236-1800**

Video Conference Location

SCAG Inland Empire Office
3600 Lime Street, Suite 216
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If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Philip Law at (213) 236-1841 or law@scag.ca.gov.

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PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

ITEM		PAGE #
1.0	<u>Call to Order and Introductions</u>	Chair Doug Kim, LACMTA
2.0	<u>Public Comment Period</u> Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking and submit it to staff before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments to twenty (20) minutes.	
3.0	<u>Consent Calendar</u>	
3.1	<u>Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2005</u> <i>Attachment</i>	1
4.0	<u>Discussion Items</u>	
4.1	<u>RTP 4-Year Cycle</u>	Hasan Ikhata, SCAG
4.2	<u>Standing Items</u>	
4.2.1	<u>Growth Forecast</u> <i>Growth Forecast Process Update</i>	Frank Wen, SCAG
	<i>RHNA Update – Funding and Schedule</i>	Hasan Ikhata, SCAG
4.2.2	<u>Highways and Arterials</u> <i>No report</i>	
4.2.3	<u>TDM / Non-Motorized</u> <i>No report</i>	
4.3	<u>SAFETEA-LU Requirements</u> <i>Analysis of how the 2004 RTP meets SAFETEA-LU requirements and where additional work is required for the 2008 RTP</i>	Tarek Hatata, System Metrics
4.4	<u>2005 State of the Region Report</u>	Ping Chang, SCAG
5.0	<u>Staff Report</u>	



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6.0 **Comment Period**

Any Committee member, member of the public, or staff desiring to comment on items not covered on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments should be limited to three minutes.

7.0 **Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**

The next meeting date is Thursday, February 16, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES for November 28, 2005

The following minutes are a summary of the Plans & Programs Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Audio cassette tapes of the actual meeting are available for listening at SCAG's office.

1.0 **Call to Order and Introductions**

The Chair Mr. Douglas Kim, LACMTA, called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

2.0 **Public Comment Period**

There were no comments.

3.0 **Consent Calendar**

3.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2005

The meeting minutes were approved.

4.0 **Discussion Items**

4.1 Standing Items

There were no standing items to report.

4.2 2004 RTP/RTIP Amendment Request

Ms. Carla Walecka, representing OCTA, discussed OCTA's request to SCAG to replace the CenterLine light rail project as a TCM in both the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Ms. Walecka stated there were two reasons for the request: first, it has failed to receive full funding to enable project delivery by 2010 as committed to in the RTP and RTIP, and second, it lacks the local consensus to carry out the project.

The project would be replaced with a 28-mile Bus Rapid Transit project from Brea Mall to Irvine Transportation Center, a Metrolink expansion program providing enhanced service between the Inland Empire and Orange County, the Irvine Business Center shuttle connecting John Wayne Airport and Irvine Business Center, and free 3+ HOV on the 91 Express Lanes from SR-55 to the Orange County/Riverside County line. This four-project package would essentially become the replacement TCM for the CenterLine. This would allow OCTA to take the CenterLine funding, which would otherwise be lost, and reallocate it before next April to the additional projects. These projects are all new and will be added to the RTP and RTIP as a result of the Amendment.

Ms. Walecka stated that OCTA has taken this request to the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) and has gone through four separate interagency consultation sessions with the federal agencies, including Federal Highway Administration and US



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Environmental Protection Agency, Caltrans, the air district, SCAG itself, and the county transportation commissions. It has been determined that the replacement projects provide an equivalent or greater amount of emission reductions within the same time frame and geographic area as was originally committed to with the CenterLine project. The emissions modeling provided by OCTA used the latest planning assumptions and was discussed through the interagency consultation process. Once the CenterLine funds are reallocated, there will be full funding under OCTA's control for the replacement TCM projects so they can ensure that the projects will be completed within the committed time frame (by 2010).

Additionally, OCTA seeks to replace the Yorba Linda Metrolink station TCM. In the Spring of 2005, the Yorba Linda City Council voted to cancel the project. The four-project package of replacement TCMs for the CenterLine generates enough surplus emission reductions to cover the Yorba Linda project. Ms. Walecka noted that the Transportation and Communications Committee staff report refers to a different replacement project for Yorba Linda, however, through the interagency consultation process that occurred on November 22, 2005, the TCWG recommended and OCTA agreed to substitute the four-project package for Yorba Linda station as well.

Next, Ms. Walecka discussed a request by OCTA and the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) to amend the RTP and RTIP. The Foothill Corridor-South, on SR-241, is a toll road that connects Oso Parkway to I-5 just south of the Orange County/San Diego County line. The project has been in the RTP and RTIP since 1991 as a toll road with four lanes in each direction. As a result of the environmental process, the preferred project for Foothill Corridor-South is now a six-lane toll road with three lanes in each direction. TCA is requesting that one of the lanes be removed in each direction from the project as currently described in the RTP and RTIP. The first two lanes in each direction will still be completed by 2010, but the third lane in each direction will be delayed from 2015 to 2020.

Mr. Naresh Amatya, SCAG, stated that the TCC will be asked to approve release of the Draft for a 30-day public review and comment period. Staff will return to the TCC and the Regional Council in February 2006 for final approval of the amendment.

In response to a question, Ms. Walecka stated that there were two issues that the TCWG discussed. One was the process by which the TCM substitution would occur. SAFETEA-LU has changed some of the requirements for TCM substitution, but there are no implementation guidelines in place. There is support from the federal agencies to proceed, and EPA will continue to work with SCAG to address this because we don't expect there will be any guidelines out in time. The second issue was the substitution project for the Yorba Linda TCM. Originally, OCTA had recommended using the Fullerton station parking structure expansion as a replacement. However, the Fullerton project had erroneously been identified as a TCM in previous documents, causing complications in the substitution process. In order to streamline the effort, OCTA decided to utilize the CenterLine replacement projects for the Yorba Linda replacement as well. The Fullerton project will still be implemented, but it will not be counted as a substitute TCM for Yorba Linda.



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In response to a question, Ms. Walecka stated that the replacement projects came out of an evaluation process that the OCTA Board undertook this past summer to identify potential replacement projects for the CenterLine.

4.3 RTP Schedule Update (3-yr vs. 4-yr Cycle)

Mr. Naresh Amatya, SCAG, stated that SCAG staff and management have concluded that the best course of action for the development of the next RTP is to take advantage of the 4-year provision in SAFETEA-LU, the new transportation bill recently passed by Congress. This means the next RTP update will occur in 2008 rather than in 2007. The key concern for this schedule is that conformity on the current 2004 RTP expires in June 2007. However, SAFETEA-LU provides for a 12-month grace period before a conformity lapse actually begins. Staff are continuing to work with the federal agencies to clarify this issue through both the rulemaking process and also through clarifying legislation.

Staff had examined several different options in addition to the 2008 RTP. One was to stay with the original 2007 RTP schedule. A second option was to develop a 2006 RTP update in conjunction with the 2006 RTIP effort. Staff believes that the latter two approaches present too many challenges in meeting conformity.

One of the main advantages of developing the 2008 RTP would be the aligning of the transportation and air quality planning (i.e. SIP development) processes. New SIP budgets are due to US EPA in June 2007, and EPA approval would not come until late 2007. If SCAG were to adopt an RTP in early 2007 as originally scheduled, we would be subject to older emission budgets that were developed using an older transportation model and older activity data. On the other hand, if SCAG were to adopt an RTP in early 2008, we should be able to use the new SIP budgets and be consistent in our planning and technical assumptions.

Mr. Amatya identified additional advantages of developing a 2008 RTP. Staff would be able to incorporate results from several major corridor studies currently in process. There are several new or expanded requirements in SAFETEA-LU, including environmental mitigation, operations and maintenance, non-motorized planning, and security, and the additional time would allow SCAG to meet these new and expanded requirements. Also, the additional time would allow staff to seek an extension to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) to keep it aligned with the RTP process.

Mr. Amatya discussed the draft schedule for the 2008 RTP. Staff would be developing No Project growth numbers over the next 8- to 9-month period. Model validation is expected to be completed in February 2006. Subsequently, the needs assessment process would begin and continue through the rest of the year. Alternatives development would begin in the summer. Previously, Mr. Amatya had indicated that project-level input from the county commissions would be required by March 2006, however with the additional time it would not be necessary until June 2006.



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In response to a question, Mr. Amatya stated that SCAG will provide the AQMD with input based on the adopted 2004 RTP with appropriate technical adjustments to the model. Mr. Deng Bang Lee, SCAG, stated that the technical adjustments include a new trip generation model, a new external heavy duty truck model, a revised speed curve, and new port trip tables.

Ms. Gail Shiimoto-Lohr, OCCOG, stated that the RHNA schedule should be revised to coordinate with the new RTP schedule, particularly the growth alternatives development.

In response to a question, Mr. Amatya stated that SCAG has been communicating with the federal agencies on the RTP schedule. Once the TCC approves the 2008 schedule, SCAG will transmit a letter to the federal agencies explaining its intent. Regarding the 12-month grace period, there is no risk to the continuity of federal funds flowing in to the region. The question is whether amendments to the RTIP can continue to be processed. Mr. Rich Macias, SCAG, added that the local staff from the federal agencies have indicated they are not in a position to give us guidance, and that direction from their headquarters is still pending.

Several TAC members suggested moving up the RTP adoption date from April 2008 to allow for last-minute emergencies.

Mr. Douglas Kim, LACMTA, asked if the air quality planning process would now be synchronized with the RTP process, and whether there would be a 2011 SIP to coincide with the 2012 RTP. Mr. Amatya stated that state law still requires a 3-year RTP, and that when the law is revised to be consistent with federal law, the SIP process would likely be addressed as well. Mr. Amatya noted that the RTIP is also allowed a 4-year cycle under SAFETEA-LU.

Ms. Paula McHargue, LAWA, recalled that previously SCAG had considered accelerating the RTP schedule because of funding issues, and asked if that had been resolved. Mr. Amatya stated there were a few funding uncertainties, and while to some extent they still exist, there have been some resolutions particularly with regard to the state budget.

Mr. Kevin Viera, WRCOG, expressed concern about the RHNA process with regard to the new RTP schedule, and asked whether SCAG would be asking HCD to extend the RHNA schedule. Mr. Amatya stated that SCAG is still committed to synchronizing the RTP and RHNA processes. Staff will put RHNA on the next TAC agenda.

5.0 **Staff Report**

Mr. Amatya stated that the RTP consultant has been selected, the pre-award audit has been concluded, and we are currently awaiting the notice to proceed. If all goes well, we will be introducing the consultant team to the TAC in January.



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6.0 Comment Period

The TAC requested a discussion of the new SAFETEA-LU requirements at the next meeting.

7.0 Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

It was announced that the TAC will not meet again until January.



PLANS & PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES for November 28, 2005

Attendance

Name	Agency
Gerald Bare	Caltrans-District 7
Shefa Bhuiyan	Caltrans-District 8
Joanna Capelle	SCRRA
Eric Carlson	LACMTA
Deborah Diep	CDR, CSU Fullerton
Dana Gabbard	So. Calif. Transit Advocates
Douglas Kim	LACMTA
Paula McHargue	LAWA
Tracy Sato	City of Anaheim
Eileen Schoetzow	LAWA
Gail Shiomoto-Lohr	Orange County COG
Jim Stewart	SCCED
Tony Van Haagen	Caltrans-District 7
Carla Walecka	TCA
 <i>Via audio/video conference</i>	
Paul Fagan	Caltrans-District 8
Brian Kuhn	City of Palmdale
Steve Smith	SANBAG
Kevin Viera	WRCOG
Jeff Weir	ARB

SCAG Staff

Naresh Amatya
Al Bowser
Simon Choi
Zahi Faranesh
Bob Huddy
Philip Law
Rich Macias
Don Rhodes
Alan Thompson

